

Bon Nochi, Drumi Dushi presents the results of igniting youthful imagination



Bon Nochi, Drumi Dushi team of readers with Olga Buckley (2nd from left).

For a short time, Aruba's National Library in Oranjestad is featuring an exposition regarding the Bon Nochi, Drumi Dushi (Good Night, Sweet Dreams) project devised and instigated by author and educator Olga Buckley. The program, begun in October, 2007, sends a team of volunteer readers out to island homes with young children to establish a "family hour" when the children are

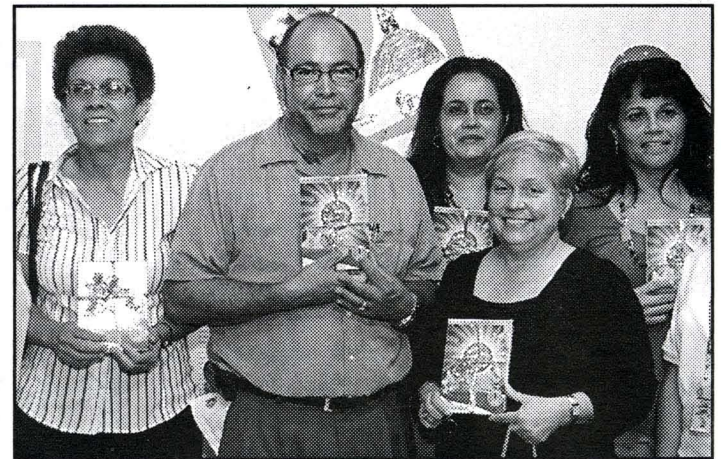
read age-appropriate stories before bedtime. This not only encourages a love of reading in youngsters from an early age but establishes a quiet time for all the family to share before the children go to sleep; contributing towards the affirmation of a strong family bond.

On Monday, families and children gathered at the exposition demonstrating the

program, and also artwork by the children involved, inspired by the story sessions. Present for the event was ten-year-old Shanayah Howell, twice winner of the BMX World Champion title, one of Aruba's world-class star athletes, to enhance the introduction of a new children's book in Papiamentu by Olga Buckley titled "Bencho ta Gana un Bais." Recipient of the book was the individual to whom it is dedicated, Olga's great-niece, Cadee Kelly.

Additionally recognized during the opening were the sponsors who have made the program possible. These included Lupita Gil, Director of UNOCA, CEDE Aruba, Astrid Britten, Director of the National Library, Joyceline Oduber of Emma School, Dado Croes of Texas Furniture Store, Joely Croes of MEMO, Nico Luydens of Van Dorp Bookstore, and Mrs. Rijdsdijk of Mariska Bookstore. Sponsors were awarded with a commemorative DVD of the project. Olga Buckley also paid homage to her supervisory team that makes the program a success, and the 38 volunteer readers who each visit eight homes twice a week to introduce youngsters to the joys of reading.

The final session for this school year of "Bon Nochi, Drumi Dushi," will draw to a close on June 11. The home visitation program will begin again in October, and fami-



Program sponsors



Shanayah Howell presenting the book to Cadee Kelly.

lies can inscribe at the national libraries in either Oranjestad or San Nicolas, as well as on Olga's website, www.olgabuckley.com. Both of Aruba's TV stations, ATV channel 15 and TeleAruba

channel 13, will begin carrying a reading session beginning in September. ATV will broadcast the program at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 9 and TeleAruba will begin on September 12 at 5:00 p.m.